

PATENT

KERMANI 43
Y0242-00205**III. Remarks**

Claims 1-29 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 10, 17, 20, 21, 24 and 27 have been canceled. New claims 30-32 have been added, support for which can be found at, for example, original Claim 3 and Specification, Page 7, Line 17-Page 9, Line 19. Examination of the new claims is respectfully requested. Claim 3 has been amended to correct its dependency after cancellation of Claim 2. Claims 1, 9, 16 and 23 have been amended as described in detail below.

The Action rejects prior pending Claims 1-29. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following arguments.

A. Claim Rejection Under § 103

The Action rejects Claims 1-29 as being obvious from U.S. Patent No. 6,289,304 to Grefenstette (hereinafter, the '304 Patent). This rejection is addressed below using amended Claim 1 as representative of the independent claims.

Amended Claim 1 recites a method of abstracting an electronic document comprising the following steps: (a) prompting a user to select at least one abstracted version of the electronic document; (b) selecting a set of instructions for abstracting the electronic document, wherein the set of instructions are particularized to the electronic document; (c) creating the abstracted version of the electronic document by executing the selected set of instructions; and (d) outputting the abstracted version of the electronic document in a predetermined format. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features previously recited in canceled Claim 2, namely that the set of instructions are particularized to the electronic document. Applicant submits that this feature is neither taught nor suggested by the '304 Patent.

Each summarization rule taught by the '304 Patent is clearly not particularized to a specific electronic document as recited in Claim 1, i.e., the rules are grammatical rules generally

PATENT

KERMANI 43
Y0242-00205

applicable to any electronic document.] By way of example only, Applicant describes, and claims in newly added dependent Claims 33-36, a set of instructions that is particularized to an electronic document by using a weighting scheme that weights prior to abstraction particular portions of an electronic document, such as by the importance or subject matter of the respective portions. (Specification, Page 7, Line 17-Page 9, Line 19). These weights are particularized to the specific electronic document, i.e., the weights are assigned as rules specific for the electronic document to be abstracted rather than generally for all electronic documents.

[In contrast, the '304 Patent discloses a method and system for summarizing text using part-of-speech (POS) data indicating parts-of-speech for tokens in the text. (Abstract; and Column 2, Lines 15-22 (relied upon by the Examiner)). Referring to the flow diagram of FIG. 3, in boxes S1-S5 input text is first converted to characters (S1) and then tokenized (S2). The tokens are collected into sentences (S3) and then each token in a sentence is associated or identified as a particular part-of-speech (S4). Verb group annotated and noun group annotated versions of the text are then formed (S5, S6) to identify noun and verb groups and their characteristics, e.g., syntactic properties such as active, passive, infinitival, etc. As discussed below, the tokenized and annotated text are then parsed to create summaries based on generic rather than "particularized" rules or sets of instructions, as claimed in amended Claim 1.

The '304 Patent describes the use of a reduction filter (Step S7) based on a selected reduction level to generate the summarized text. (Column 8, Lines 44-58). Each reduction level utilizes the part-of-speech tagging and tokenization discussed above. The '304 Patent provides at Column 9, Lines 43-59 eight examples of reduction levels that may be employed by the reducing filter to provide summarized text:

- (1) only proper names, no subclauses;
- (2) only subjects and object nouns, no subclauses;
- (3) only subjects, head verbs, and object nouns, no subclauses;

PATENT**KERMANI 43
Y0242-00205**

(4) only subjects, head verbs, and object nouns, preposition and dependent noun heads, no subclauses;

(5) only proper names, including subclauses;

(6) only subjects and object nouns, including subclauses;

(7) only subjects, head verbs, and object nouns, including subclauses; and

(8) only subjects, head verbs, and object nouns, preposition and dependent noun heads, including subclauses.

From the foregoing, the '304 Patent does not teach or suggest a set of instructions for abstracting an electronic document that is particularized to the electronic document. Therefore, independent Claim 1, and independent Claims 9, 16 and 23, which recite features that parallel Claim 1, are not obvious from the '304 Patent and are allowable over the art of record. It is submitted that Claims 3-8, 11-15, 18-19, 23, 25-26 and 28-36, which depend from the independent claims, are also allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

B. Additional Claim Amendments

Claims 20-21 have been canceled and their features amended into Claim 19. Likewise, Claim 27 has been canceled and its features amended into Claim 26. These claim amendments have not been made for any reason related to their patentability, but rather, these amendments have been made to avoid payment for claims in addition to the number for which Applicant has already paid.

PATENT

KERMANT 43
Y0242-00205

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance at an early date, which action is earnestly solicited.

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to deposit account 04-1769.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 2, 2004


Joseph A. Powers, Reg. No.: 47,006
Attorney For Applicant

DUANE MORRIS LLP
One Liberty Place
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-7396
(215) 979-1842 (Telephone)
(215) 979-1020 (Fax)